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OGC 65-0331

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4 February 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: DCI Briefing of Full House Armed Services Committee  
2 February 1965

25X1 1. The Director briefed the full House Armed Services Committee for approximately two and one-half hours. Accompanying the Director were: R. J. Smith, [REDACTED] Bruce Clarke, and John S. Warner. All members of the Committee were present except James A. Byrne and Santiago Polanco-Abreu. Present from the Committee staff were:

John R. Blandford  
Philip W. Kelleher  
Frank Slatinshek

Earl Morgan  
William H. Cook  
Ralph Marshall

Lt. Gen. Alva R. Fitch, Deputy Director, DIA, was present as was Captain Arthur H. Berndtson, Legislative Assistant to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

There was a technical sweep of the room before the hearing and special security arrangements were made with the reporting firm and the Committee so that at all times the tapes and the transcript were in the custody of CIA representatives. Attached is a copy of the opening statement of Mr. Rivers.

2. The Director completed his prepared statement and a few members had opportunity to ask questions. In view of the lateness of the hour, the Chairman inquired if the Director could return tomorrow at 9:30 which was agreed. A number of the members were laudatory of the Director's statement and his service with the Government.

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3. Mr. Bates inquired whether there was anything the Committee could do to give the Agency the necessary tools. The Director indicated that he felt we had the proper tools.

4. Mr. Hebert made the suggestion that since there were so many new members the Agency might assist them to understand the implications and the importance of the information collected by the Agency as well as the Agency itself if they were briefed in further details on the problems confronting the Agency. Mr. Hebert in attempting to explain his point indicated that in many cases CIA was blamed for things improperly and that it was not a policymaking body. The Director responded that this was a good suggestion indicating that on a number of occasions we have members out to the Agency to discuss these types of things suggesting that on occasion breakfast meetings were helpful. Later, Mr. Chamberlain specifically requested the Director that he be included in such a group. The Director requested John Warner to follow up on this.

5. It appeared that the briefing was well received in view of the expressions and statements of those present. In addition, I checked this later in the day and Mr. Blandford advised that he had heard numerous comments from various members and that they were unanimously favorable. Mr. Blandford added that the Chairman and he thought the Director had done a superb job in presenting the information and in responding to questions.

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JOHN S. WARNER  
Legislative Counsel

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Att. - Rivers Statement

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